

# **RELIGIOUS VOICES IN BROADCASTING**

June 13, 2006

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**RE: CS Docket No. 98-120; Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals**

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of Religious Voices in Broadcasting, the following overview provides information on the valuable local programming small, independent and religious broadcast stations provide to communities across the nation, and the financial implications of the digital television transition to broadcasters.

## **Introduction**

Religious Voices in Broadcasting ("RVB") is a group of full-power religious broadcasters and networks who focus on spiritual, family-friendly, and community-oriented programming. RVB is comprised of the nation's largest religious broadcast networks and many small and independent religious broadcasters across the country (see attached list of members). RVB works with hundreds of television stations and affiliates around the country to provide positive and values-based programming to millions of American households by developing original programming that offers an alternative to the commercially-driven, and often violent, profane, and indecent programming that have inundated the major networks and cable-only channels. Even in cases where programming is imported, it remains locally relevant and important to each station's viewers. All of our members are small and independent broadcast stations that are carried on cable as a result of the original must-carry provision established in the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 ("1992 Cable Act").

Promoting a diversity of viewpoints and choices in the television medium is an important government interest. A regulatory environment that gives small and local broadcasters the opportunity to maintain existing local operations, while simultaneously fostering growth and a proportionate voice in digital television, preserves a basic tenant of American communication policy—promoting widespread dissemination of information from a multiplicity of sources. Our stations are struggling with the burden of developing digital programming plans in an uncertain regulatory environment, while simultaneously financing the costs of digital build-out and multicast must-carry is the cornerstone to our viability.

- I. **Multicast must-carry is both a reasonable and legal means for ensuring a multiplicity of ideas and opinions are made available on this nations airways.**

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The delicate balance of cable carrying all broadcasters in the market was reviewed thoroughly by Congress in 1992. Congress considered the average number of cable channels on cable systems, the number of broadcast stations in each market and, with the understanding that technology would evolve with more efficiencies for spectrum usage, required that cable carry each broadcaster in the market up to one third of the cable operator's capacity based on the average "one broadcast channel per 100 cable channels ratio" that existed in 1992. Instead of requiring strict numerical cable carriage limits, Congress used this formula to develop a balance of broadcast to cable channels that would serve as a reasonable gauge for future carriage requirements. The decision ensured that as both industries evolved, the balance of broadcast to cable channels would stay proportionate with the original competitive structure established in the Act. This is the basis for our position that multicast must-carry is consistent and, indeed, mandated by the 1992 Cable Act

Congress' intent was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1997, for three primary reasons—must carry: (1) preserved the benefits of free, over-the-air local broadcast television, (2) promoted the widespread dissemination of information from a multiplicity of sources, and (3) promoted fair competition in the market for television programming.

As a result of extensive legal review, we strongly believe that the FCC has the authority to require cable carriage of a broadcaster's 6 MHz of digital spectrum and any free over-the-air programming streams contained therein. In Section 614 (4)(b) of the 1992 Cable Act, Congress directs the FCC to make "any changes in the signal carriage requirements of cable television systems necessary to ensure cable carriage of such broadcast signals of local commercial television stations which have been changed to conform with such modified standards."

Broadcasters are not asking cable operators to carry any additional spectrum than they have carried on their cable systems since the 1992 Cable Act. Today's technology allows cable operators to compress each broadcaster's 6 MHz of spectrum with multicast signals to 3 MHz, without degrading the signal, thereby freeing up 50% of the spectrum they have allocated for broadcasters since must-carry was implemented in 1992. Small, independent and religious broadcasters are simply asking that, as the digital transition progresses, our broadcast voices do not become so substantially diluted that some of our stations cease to exist and those who remain after the transition are not irreparably harmed by the digital transition costs and the resulting anticompetitive marketplace for those not affiliated with the large media conglomerates.

**II. Small, independent and religious broadcasters have been disproportionately affected by the governments unfunded digital build-out mandate.**

All of our stations are part of companies with broadcast-only assets. The costs for small and independent broadcasters to build digital stations in each market is equivalent to those of large broadcasters affiliated with major media conglomerates, but the smaller broadcasters cannot absorb the burden as easily. While these circumstances could be labeled as the free market cost of doing business, the digital build-out was required by the federal government and would not have been undertaken by any of our stations in a free market environment without the assurance that our right to maintain a proportionate voice in digital television would be protected with

multicast must-carry. Since we have expended major sums of money for the unfunded digital build-out, we have experienced double bills for electricity, transmitters and other related operating costs causing a significant drain on resources and are now faced with the prospect of our voices being diluted from one channel of one hundred on an analog cable system to one of 800-1,000 on digital systems.

Table 1 reflects the operating costs for the year 2005 for some RVB stations. Also listed are to-date expenditures in preparation for the digital transition and estimated future costs necessary to complete the conversion.

**Table 1**

Call Sign	Designated Market Area	2005 Operating Expenditures (approximately)	To-Date Cost of Build-Out	Future Costs for Completion
WVUP	Tallahassee, FL/Thomasville, GA	\$600,000	\$1,100,000	\$300,000
WYBU	Columbus, GA	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$400,000
WVLR	Knoxville, TN	\$1,800,000	\$2,300,000	\$800,000
WTJR	Quincy, IL/Hannibal, MO/Keokuk, IA	new	\$1,900,000	\$1,000,000
KFXB	Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Iowa City/Waterloo, IA	\$1,100,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,100,000
WTLW	Lima, OH	\$1,400,000	\$509,603	\$1,300,000
KCHF	Santa Fe/Albuquerque, NM	\$566,660	\$404,854	\$2,000,000
WLMB	Toledo, OH	\$1,253,792	\$758,494	\$325,900
WLCB	Orlando, FL	\$350,000	\$5,800,000	\$800,000- \$1,000,000
WSFJ	Columbus, OH	\$2,300,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,750,000

The figures in Table 1 vary from market-to-market and the extent of actual build-out, but share the important commonality of an undue burden. The best use of the digital spectrum for RVB stations will likely be a combination of high-definition and standard definition programming with multicasting. Each community will have a custom planned digital television model based on its local needs. A mixture of spectrum usage will allow stations to develop new and expanded community service programs, recoup expenses imposed by the government's unfunded digital television mandate, and ensure that local communities continue receiving important, demographically tailored and inspirational programming from a multiplicity of sources.

None of our broadcasters advocated for the digital transition. All would have actively opposed the transition if the federal government had made it clear that we would be subjected to an unfunded mandate and our stations would not receive proportionate analog-to-digital cable carriage rights by way of a clear multicast must-carry mandate. However, now that the transition is underway, no other broadcasters have more invested in seeing a successful conversion so that we can terminate the financial drain of operating two stations. Most importantly, the digital transition will not be a success for the American public, local political discourse, diversity of opinions and niche, smaller, independent and religious broadcast owners in the absence of a clear multicast must-carry law.

**III. The viability of small, independent and religious broadcasters is being threatened due to the difficulties they have experienced in getting carriage of their digital streams.**

The current multimedia environment has become increasingly consolidated due to the proliferation of channels affiliated with cable's horizontally and vertically integrated partners. Cable has entered into contractual arrangements with the major television networks, NBC, ABC, CBS and Fox, to carry their multicast channels as part of a package deal that includes their main channel and other media assets affiliated with these large companies. The agreements are based sight-unseen on carrying any additional channels of programming that the major networks develop. Still, cable maintains small, independent and religious broadcasters must make a "compelling" programming showing to meet its competitive, free-market standard. Major network affiliated broadcasters, including their commonly owned secondary networks, have a distinct advantage in developing digital television business and programming plans because they can capitalize on advanced technology with the understanding that cable operators will carry all their new programming streams. Religious broadcasters have been systematically rebuffed by cable for must-carry rights for our additional programming streams, even when we have made evidentiary showings of the strong viewership interest for our new channels. Regardless of our extensive record of public service and community support, independent full power stations will continue to be systematically rebuffed when seeking carriage of multiple signals in the absence of a government mandate.

For example, **Richard Schilg**, General Manager of **WSFJ Channel 51 in Newark-Columbus, Ohio**, has experienced specific instances of discrimination in his attempts to gain cable carriage for his four additional local multicast stations. Mr. Schilg has made repeated requests to Time Warner cable for additional cable channels and has been repeatedly denied carriage for his digital multicast channels. WSFJ has been singled out and denied access, say local Time Warner executives in their defense, because they have been told by their Time Warner national legal department not to grant him digital channels unless they are forced to by an FCC mandate in the form of multicast must-carry. His station lacks the influence to secure additional stations by leveraging a national deal that other large station group organizations can more easily negotiate.

However, Sinclair, a local ABC and Fox duopoly, and local competitor in the Columbus, Ohio market will launch on July 1, a digital channel and has gained cable access to directly compete with WSFJ by offering family-friendly and faith-based programming. Their sales force is selling against WSFJ by explaining that WSFJ is unable to gain cable coverage. WSFJ and other RVB stations needs multicast must-carry to level the playing field and provide fairness in cable access. Without multicast must-carry in digital television, smaller broadcasters will revert back to a pre-1992 world, where cable and the major broadcast networks will further develop alliances that severely restrict the viability of small and independent broadcasters. Multicasting is an important component to the future of digital television and in order to compete in the digital television marketplace with major networks, their affiliates and other cable programmers, we must be able to maintain parity in the television medium.

**IV. Evidence of RVB stations experiencing financial difficulty with the digital build-out is pandemic.**

The following are examples of RVB member experiences with the digital television transition:

**Mr. Jamey Schmitz of WLMB-TV 40 in Toledo, Ohio** runs a non-profit, commercial television station primarily funded by viewer contributions with additional financial support from advertising revenues. To date, they have incurred DTV costs of \$412,000, \$12,000 of which was expended on electricity alone. WLMB estimates that \$156,000 is necessary to complete the transition. Moreover, with the transition extending well beyond 2006, WLMB will be required to replace a dated analog transmitter at a cost of \$500,000—a significant investment for this station.

WLMB has been on the air for 5 years and won the prestigious *National Religious Broadcaster's Television Station of the Year* award for 2 consecutive years, 2003 and 2004. The station is a valuable part of the Ohio community because of its locally produced shows that reflect the unique characteristics of the market. WLMB and its viewers were disappointed when the station suspended plans to invest in new community-based programming, including popular local high school sports, due to the financial burdens of the digital transition. WLMB is contemplating infomercials as a source of revenue; although Mr. Schmitz and his colleagues would prefer to focus on the public service and community programming that continues to make WLMB a successful, valuable and beloved community broadcast station.

**Ms. Grace Rendall of KSCE-TV 38 in El Paso, Texas** estimates annual operating expenses for their digital TV station to exceed \$500,000 per year. This figure is in addition to their analog expenses and significantly higher than KSCE's 2003 total gross revenues of \$360,541. As a non-commercial station dependent on viewer contributions, KSCE has already borrowed \$15,000 and anticipates financing an additional \$1.5 million to comply with the government-mandated build-out. Ms. Rendall has encountered resistance in securing additional financing because of the perception that declining revenue will be realized from the digital operations of KSCE without cable carriage of their multicast signals.

KSCE has engaged outside help to supplement its small staff and identify outside funding sources, conduct audits for grant proposals and hire personnel to plan and implement the digital conversion. The financial difficulties KSCE is facing have caused an indefinite delay of plans for developing new and expanded free programming. KSCE is a small station suffering from the loss of valuable time, resources and assets that they are investing to meet FCC imposed digital deadlines, and seeks an affirmative multicast must-carry vote in order to continue broadcast operations and serve their viewers.

**Mr. Ken Mikesell's** digital stations, **WALL-DTV 52 and WLCB-DTV 46 in Orlando, Florida** will cost an estimated \$750,000 per year to operate, in addition to annual debt servicing and programming costs associated with the transition. An investment of \$5.5 million more is necessary for DTV completion. Borrowing funds for this venture is difficult because lenders express concerns about the negative financial implications of independent broadcasters' ability to service debts without a clear digital multicast must-carry requirement. Mr. Mikesell's financial

struggles have forced him to downsize from 25 to 14 employees. He continues to seek funding sources to avoid disenfranchising his remaining employees and the elderly, minority and poor communities of Orlando that comprise the majority of his viewing audience, and rely on the important local programming his stations provide.

**Mr. Bob D'Andrea**, Chairman of **Christian Television Network ("CTN")** and owner of Florida stations **WCLF-TV 22 in Tampa Bay; WHBR-TV 33 in Pensacola; WRXY-TV 49 in Fort Myers; and WFGC-TV 61 in West Palm Beach**, expects his annual operating expenses to increase an additional \$166,000 for DTV operations. Mr. D'Andrea has borrowed \$5 million of the \$7 million currently necessary for the digital build-out of his Florida stations, and estimates financing another \$700,000 for completion. The CTN is currently airing both analog and digital signals from their stations and requested FCC authority to cease analog broadcasting operations to reduce costs. The FCC denied their request, forcing CTN to implement across-the-board cutbacks.

**Mr. Mike Smith's** digital operations for **WLFG-TV 68 in Grundy, Virginia and WAGV-TV 44 in Harlan, Kentucky**, have increased annual operating expenditures by \$150,000. Moreover, maintaining the new digital equipment requires specialized engineering costs of \$100,000 during the first year and \$120,000 for subsequent years. Insurance for the WLFG and WAGV buildings and their new digital equipment, and higher phone bills associated with the remote control transmitter that operates from the studio, have placed major financial burdens on Mr. Smith's operations. In an attempt to mitigate costs, Mr. Smith began airing infomercials, which he removed after receiving negative feedback from his viewer base. He continues to look for creative cost cutting and financing arrangements to support his broadcast operations, but is experiencing significant difficulties and sees multicasting as the only way to maintain and increase his viewing audience and sustain a viable business model for his digital stations.

**Dr. James Thompson** has borrowed \$400,000 for build-out of his stations **WATC-TV 57 Atlanta, GA and WGGS-TV 16 Greenville, SC** and must acquire an additional \$2 million to complete construction. An annual debt service of \$75,000 plus a yearly increase of \$12,000 in expenses for digital television operations has forced Dr. Thompson to contemplate infomercials to meet rising costs, a measure he hopes to avoid through increased programming revenues from multicasting.

**V. The digital television transition will have a disproportionate impact on lower and fixed income, minority and senior American households.**

If we review the evolution of television, it is clear that the strongest motivating factor in advancing each new generation of television technology has been additional programming choices for consumers. For example, in the 1960's consumers embraced the move from television sets that carried only VHF signals to those that included UHF receivers so that viewers would have more choices in television programming. In the late 1980's and early 1990's cable became a solution for those who could not receive reliable over-the-air broadcast signals, particularly in rural areas, so its success is largely based on offering additional programming choices including national cable networks like CNN and others. As the 2009 digital television deadline looms, it is clear that the most important factor that will propel consumers to invest in

digital television sets and/or set-top boxes before the 2009 deadline is additional broadcast programming channels that appeal to the over-the-air viewing demographic.

Current over-the-air viewers disproportionately seek out religious and family-friendly programs. In addition, studies find that the demographics that watch television over-the-air do so at a rate that is higher than those who receive their television signals through cable and satellite, with older, fixed income Americans watching 5.5 hours/day—the highest average of any age group.

Therefore, as the FCC considers initiatives that would propel the digital transition forward in a manner that is least disruptive to American consumers, multicast must-carry should be a top priority. Without a compelling reason to invest in new technology, over-the-air television viewers will not acquire digital television sets and/or set top boxes and will be disenfranchised when the transition is completed in 2009.

Furthermore, since this over-the-air demographic watches a disproportionate amount of non-major network broadcast programming, they are actually discouraged from making the transition because there will be no benefit in the form of suitable additional programming choices without a multicast must-carry mandate.

With a multicast must-carry mandate, our stations will heavily engage in major public education and awareness campaigns on our main analog channels to promote additional programming options that will be available with digital television and we will encourage viewers to purchase digital television sets and/or set top boxes. Our elderly, minority and over-the-air viewers are loyal to our stations and we feel would respond positively to such urgings. Thus, the federal government would spend less money on subsidizing the transition through the set top box subsidy and small, independent and religious broadcasters would be able to maintain our viability in the next generation of American television.

**VI. RVB stations air locally relevant, quality, family-friendly and faith-based programming which serves an important public interest, and we are strongly committed to doing so in the future with multicast must-carry in digital television.**

The following overview provides information on the valuable programming small, independent and religious broadcast stations provide to communities across the nation and programming they plan on offering, which may be lost without the ability to multicast in digital television:

**Mr. Mike Reed** plans on utilizing the benefits of multicasting to further expand the fifty hours of local programming his station, **KMCT-TV 39**, airs each week in the **West Monroe, Louisiana** area. KMCT's current programming includes *Fully Alive*, a live, one-hour nightly talk show hosted by Mr. Reed, which brings diverse people from the community together to discuss issues of the day. Guests include Members of Congress, Louisiana Governors and local Mayors who speak on topics such as health, marriage and other local concerns. During the show KMCT has a phone bank available for viewers to call in with questions, concerns or comments. *Explore the Bible*, hosted by retired pastor Dr. John Taylor, is a Southern Baptist Association program that includes writings and teachings from Dr. Taylor, and provides a spiritual outlet for

those who cannot leave their homes because of injury or illness. *Teen's Focus* is a show dedicated to exploring and addressing issues present in the daily lives of today's youth, from school to family to peer pressure and more. Mr. Tim Johnson is a local pastor who invites area teens on the show to discuss issue management and crisis prevention. *Let God Be True* is a locally produced show that airs the preaching of area churches and highlights the teachings of Pastor Larry Burrel, who uses graphs and visual aids to educate viewers. *Sacred Conversations* is a locally produced show hosted by Mr. Robert Charles Payne, a West Monroe businessman, and previous football coach for West Monroe High School. Mr. Payne invites guests to speak about issues facing the community, including sports, health and disciplines of life.

KMCT's programming schedule is replete with locally produced shows that provide valuable services to Louisiana communities. KMCT would utilize the benefits of multicasting to lengthen and expand their current programming to include a 24-hour church channel that would cover local services and church sponsored community activities. Additionally, KMCT would like to air a 24-hour children's channel and 24-hour youth channel with programs focused on the specific interests of these age groups. In an effort to promote student sports in the area, KMCT would like to expand local sports coverage by devoting a channel to playback shows of Neville High School, Ouachita High School and Louisiana Tech University. Each of these schools currently airs an hour per week of game highlights and interviews with coaches and players. Ouachita High School also interviews students to discuss activities on campus including clubs, organizations and other school sponsored programs. Louisiana Tech University airs the basketball games of their well-ranked women's team. KMCT supports the development of broadcasting and production experience for students at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Grambling University, which has a predominantly African-American student body, by hiring them to work at the station and cover issues relating to their university, including local sports. The close proximity between KMCT and several high schools and universities will facilitate increased coverage of local sports and student activities through multicasting, and facilitate employment opportunities in broadcasting.

**Mr. Richard Hawkins** is the General Manager of WLLA-TV 64, the only independent station in the **Kalamazoo-Grand Rapids-Battle Creek** market. WLLA offers a variety of family-friendly programming, boasting the most hours of local programs in the market--17 hours per week. Among the shows WLLA airs is, *Transformed*, a daily show hosted by Pastor Joel A. Brooks, Jr. that focuses on the African-American constituency through programming that promotes racial harmony. Mr. Brooks leads an interdenominational and multiracial congregation of 2000 people. *Getting a Grip* is a unique show, hosted by one of the few female Pastors in Kalamazoo. Mrs. Beth Jones' teachings extend to the community at large and reflect a female perspective on the Christian doctrine. Pastor Duane VanderKlok hosts *Walking by Faith*, a daily teaching and bible study program that breaks from tradition by taking viewers on adventures that relate to bible stories, including hunting expeditions. Pastor Addis Moore hosts *Mt. Zion Baptist Church*, another program that targets the African-American population and focuses on the needs of that community. A popular show among the community is programming from the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, which produces holiday specials and recaps of their yearly missions abroad.



In addition to valuable local church programming, WLLA works with Western Michigan University ("WMU") to air local coach's shows, as well as men and women's basketball games. In association with the Michigan High School Athletics Association, WLLA is committed to annually airing the girl's high school volleyball championships from the WMU campus, which provides a unique opportunity for these young girls to gain public exposure. WLLA would use digital technology to multicast a 24-hour channel of other local sports. Other digital program plans include a 24-hour channel of family-friendly and wholesome programming, and a youth channel with music and programs to benefit young people.

**Dr. James Thompson** has developed a loyal and devoted following in **South Carolina** due to his remarkable thirty-year record of broadcast public service to **Greenville** and its surrounding areas with his station, **WGGS**. He has similar stature in **Atlanta, Georgia**, where he owns a second television station, **WATC**. Most notably, Dr. Thompson and his wife Joanne host *The Nightline*, a live two-hour weeknight call-in program on WGGS, which gives people from the community an opportunity to discuss a variety of local interests. Discussion topics have included conversations on current weather conditions and crop conditions; oral histories of South Carolina; highlights of area elderly and indigent care services as well as conversations on how issues of national significance affect South Carolinians. The Atlanta station, WATC, devotes the same amount of time and resources to their live, local nightly show. WGGS' daily variety program, *The Peggy Denny Show*, offers cooking and household tips and reviews of local arts and politics. *Nancy's Heartbeat*, hosted by Nancy Corso, Greenville's local chiropractor with a Master's Degree in Trauma, is a weekly show on fitness and the latest news in medicine. *Jewish Jewels* is a show that focuses on the Jewish religion and those who practice the faith in the area.

Since the beginning of the Iraqi War, Dr. Thompson's stations often air a daily scroll of the names of the local soldiers who are committed to active duty in Iraq and ask viewers to send prayers and well wishes to the troops. WGGS keeps a phone bank of volunteer "listeners" who comfort lonely or in need viewers in the area and refers more troubled individuals to local crisis help groups. WATC also is the home to a unique program, *The Gravedigger Show*, hosted by Joe Oreskovich, a former homeless man who was rescued by the local fire department. Joe interviews firemen, policemen, doctors, politicians and others to inspire and provide resources, guidance and hope to those in most need and at-risk, including alcoholics, the unemployed, and the indigent.

WGGS and WATC seek the ability to multicast to expand current programs and invest in developing new and original programming. On numerous occasions, North Greenville College has asked to air student produced shows (a request that is usually unable to be granted because of established programming commitments). With the ability to multicast, WGGS and WATC could provide the College its own channel, which would benefit both the students and the community. Moreover, because of its geographical location, WATC would like to air a 24-hour gardening and agricultural channel, in addition to a 24-hour sports channel that will focus on elementary, secondary and college level sports. Finally, WGGS and WATC would continue to reach out to the community by providing a vocational and employment channel that would be a resource for job announcements, provide information on various trades and professions and promote employment in the area.

**Ms. Grace Rendall and KSCE-TV 38 in El Paso, Texas** play a unique role in their diverse community by providing bilingual and local programming to the ethnic and religious groups in the region. KSCE airs daily programming in English and Spanish and provides valuable media resources for El Paso's large Hispanic community, which has limited family-friendly programming choices. Additionally, KSCE airs a variety of programs that cater to the sizable El Paso Jewish community, like the bi-weekly showing of the *Jewish Voice* and Jewish high holy days seasonal shows. With the ability to multicast, KSCE is interested in continuing its diversity outreach by dedicating two digital channels to full time Spanish-language formats—one for general purpose and the second for youth educational needs.

**Mr. Belarmino "Blackie" Gonzalez's station, KCHF in Santa Fe, New Mexico**, is dedicated to providing the communities throughout New Mexico with positive, informational, and entertaining quality Christian programming that meets the needs of the diverse community. KCHF TV plans to expand those benefits through multicasting. As the only station broadcasting from the state capital, KCHF plays an active role in the Santa Fe area through *Issues & Answers*, a weekly program hosted by the former Press Secretary who invites representatives of state government agencies to discuss valuable state programs available to New Mexicans and invites qualified guests to address concerns affecting the community. KCHF is a leader in health and nutrition programming and produces *A Healthier You*, a program offering the most current information on prevention and awareness of diseases significantly affecting the health of every New Mexican, young and old. KCHF works closely with local churches and charitable causes in an effort to help those who have been victimized through many circumstances. Including but not limited to work that has been done in conjunction with the United Jewish Communities to help Israeli victims of terror.

For two years KCHF TV provided a 24-hour youth station in the Albuquerque area which made a significant difference, but because cable would not carry the station, it could not be financially sustained, sadly it caused a great loss for the passionate dedicated youth who saw lives being changed daily.

Currently KCHF TV is using this same station to provide 24-hour Spanish programming to our very large Hispanic/Mexican community. Though it is extremely well received, cable has not included it in the line-up. We are bombarded daily with viewers who subscribe to cable and satellite asking how they can get this 24-hour Spanish-Christian station.

Our plans are to use multicasting channels in ways that will meet the needs of our unique community. One channel will be a 24-hour Youth Channel; while another will be 24-hour Spanish channel and a third channel will meet the needs of other groups including, but not limited to, the Jewish community, Native-American Community, and other diverse cultures within the communities we serve.

**Mr. Jamey Schmitz of WLMB Toledo, Ohio** has committed to using the benefits of multicasting to serve local viewers by providing a worship channel that would feature 24-hours of local area religious related services. This channel would include expanded versions of WLMB's *Pastor's Point* and *Find a Local Church*, programs that feature up to ninety-eight different local religious venues a year. To date, over thirty denominations have been represented

on these half hour weekly programs. Currently, the station has a backlog of over one hundred community leaders and venues awaiting the opportunity to feature their services. In many cases, these shows are the only television exposure that churches, synagogues and cultural specific religious organizations including African American and Hispanic parishioners are afforded. These shows have been extremely successful in helping new Toledo area residents and those new to faith find a place of worship for their families.

WLMB would also reach out to the growing Hispanic community in Ohio by starting a 24-hour Spanish-language channel that would expand upon of their current weekly half hour Spanish-language program, which is the only foreign language program in the entire market. WLMB regularly receives requests from Hispanic leaders to include updates of local Latino sponsored events on the show. As this segment of the population continues to grow, the ability to reach these viewers through a channel devoted to their specific needs would utilize free-over-the-air broadcasting in a manner consistent with the objectives enumerated in *Turner vs. FCC*. Additionally, WLMB would like to start a 24-hour youth channel (a G rated MTV type channel) that would provide local teens the opportunity to become involved in the production, filming and editing of television programs. Toledo teens would have a local outlet to air programming that is timely and relevant to their evolving needs and interests. WLMB envisions expanding their current music video show that features local artist's interviews and family-friendly music videos. Finally, in 2004, WLMB began airing the Toledo Mud Hens baseball games. The beloved Mud Hens are the farm team for the Detroit Tigers. With multicast, WLMB would air 24-hour local news and sports channels, as a collaborative effort with organizations like the Mud Hens and area high schools and colleges.

**Mr. Ken Mikesell's Orlando, Florida station, WTLG**, would use its additional channels for Spanish and Asian language content; educational programs including PBS shows not aired in the market; shows serving central Florida's large population of seniors and children; a civic and local government channel to inform the transient population of available public services; and other locally produced programs. The station would expand upon its regular programs featuring local nutritionists, physicians, counselors and other community leaders who discuss health, psychological and spiritual needs of the community. WTLG produces the Easter Sunrise service at Sea World in Florida for uplink to stations across the country, including the Armed Services Network, which it carries to all U.S. military bases. WTLG is extremely active with local social and civic organizations and uses its airwaves to promote interest and support for worthwhile projects. For instance, the station organizes food drives for local ministries; arranged for receipt of over 5000 turkeys to the Destiny Food Center in Orlando for Thanksgiving 2002; provided "Bags of Joy" to over 2000 families through Harvestime International in Sanford; works with Operation Christmas Child, run by Reverend Billy Graham's son Franklin, to supply toys, toiletries and clothing to the needy; and participates in many other rewarding ventures. As a melting pot for many ethnicities, Orlando is the perfect example of a community in need of additional local programming choices to serve its diverse constituents.

**Christian Television Network (CTN)**, headquartered in Clearwater, Florida, is dedicated to bringing positive Christian programming with family-friendly, wholesome messages to its viewers from all socio-economic backgrounds. Since its inception twenty years ago, CTN, its Tampa Bay station WCLF, and its founder **Mr. Bob D'Andrea** have developed unique local

programs including, *Bay Focus*, an original show that features and highlights ministries in central Florida that are involved in charitable activities to feed the homeless, create support centers in inner cities, and provide assistance to the needy. CTN also devotes numerous hours of programming to youth and Latinos with original programs like *La Vida Ahora* (Today's Life), *Vida Dura* (A Hard Life), *Kids Like You*, and *Kids on the Move*. CTN also owns full power stations including **WHBR-Pensacola**, **WHTN-Nashville**, **WVLR-Knoxville**, **WRXY-Ft. Myers**, **WFGC-Palm Beach** and **WGNM-Tampa**. With the ability to multicast, CTN will further develop and expand programming that distinguishes CTN from other broadcasters.

**Mr. Pete Sumrall**, President of **LeSEA Broadcasting**, owns and operates television stations in Indianapolis, Indiana (**WHMB-TV 40**); South Bend, Indiana (**WHME-TV 46**); Tulsa, Oklahoma (**KWHB-TV 47**); New Orleans, Louisiana (**WHNO-TV 20**); Denver, Colorado (**KWHD-TV 53**); Colorado Springs, Colorado (**KWHS-TV 51**) and Honolulu, Hawaii (**KWHE-TV 14**). All of these stations are uniquely focused on being involved with local programming such as High School athletics and local church programs. These programs would be broadcast on multicast channels in addition to the Christian programming and family entertainment programming already aired on the network.

In addition, LeSEA Broadcasting produces a daily live talk-show program, *The Harvest Show*, which deals with day-to-day living for Christian America. Other original programming developed and produced by LeSEA include *Live from Studio B*, a weekly Christian music show; the *Lester Sumrall Teaching* series, hosted by the late Dr. Lester Sumrall the program provides helpful insight into life's difficult questions scripturally; *Bible Prophecy Unraveled*, answers questions concerning the prophetic End-Times; *Making Healthy Choices*, provides answers to life's health questions; Israel specials, programs done live from Israel; and others. These programs would all air on multicast channels.

**Mr. Richard Schilg** plans four additional locally multicast station channels. They include a faith channel (GTN Faith), a family-friendly programming channel (GTN Family), a news, sports and music combined channel (GTN News) and a home schooling, educational channel (GTN Ed.). Mr. Schilg is the general manager of **WSFJ Channels 51 in Newark-Columbus, Ohio** and President of **Guardian Television Network**, on the Sky Angel satellite system. WSFJ is licensed, owned and operated by Guardian Vision International, Inc., a non-profit non-denominational para church local ministry. In 1999, when Mr. Schilg became President and GM, he affiliated with the PAX television network (now ION) and he changed the format to a combination of edited family friendly programming and ministry programming, serving the community with a choice of less sex, violence and profanity in television. In 2003, WSFJ became rebroadcast as GTN (Guardian Television Network) on the national Sky Angel satellite system. Already producing many hours of programming a week, the national presence allowed for the development of more family friendly programs, such as *Every Young Man's Battle* a teen docudrama addressing internet pornography, *Bananas*, a family friendly stand-up comedy show with now 42 hours long episodes and *Taylor's Attic* a children's puppet sitcom featuring former Star Search winner and comedian Taylor Mason and many more programs. Locally, WSFJ features over 8 separate local ministries, produces and promotes many local concerts and promotes over 60 local events for various ministries and community support organizations a year.

Multicast must-carry is the single most important factor in allowing WSFJ, as a local broadcaster, to grow and keep pace with its major network affiliated competitors in the Columbus, Ohio designated market area, which is ranked number 32. All of the other stations in the market are creating and programming their multicast channels and gaining cable access. WSFJ lacks the clout as an independent, family-friendly and faith-based PAX/ION network to secure stations by leveraging national deals such as CBS, NBC, ABC and other large station group organizations can. WSFJ needs multicast must-carry to level the playing field and provide fairness in cable access.

**Drs. Garth and Tina Coonce**, co-founders of **Total Christian Television ("TCT")**, operate full power TV stations in the **Grand Rapids, Michigan; Buffalo, New York; Greensboro, North Carolina; Saginaw, Michigan; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Paducah, Kentucky** designated market area's. TCT stations produce a wealth of local original programming specifically geared toward meeting the needs of families and local communities. For example, *Ask The Pastor* is TCT's most popular and long running locally produced television program. *Ask The Pastor* is a call-in talk show featuring panels of pastors from a variety of cultural and denominational backgrounds who answer viewer questions from every imaginable theological and moral perspective. Response to the program is amazing and has grown to such a degree that TCT has recently added an evening edition called *The Answer* to address overflow call volumes and questions that require more in-depth discussion. TCT also produces an extraordinary variety of public interest and educational programs such as *A Different View* (women's issues); *Public Report* (community affairs); *Ultimate Living* (health and nutrition); *The Joys of Oneness* (marriage and family); *Spiritual Warfare* (with Rabbi Moshe Laurie); as well as inspirational musical programs such as *Down Home* (Inspirational Bluegrass); *Come On In* (Christian Country); *The Master's Music* (Southern Gospel); and *Road of Recovery* (Southern Gospel) and family-friendly original movies and documentaries such as *Believer's Among Us*; *Family Talk*; *The Heart of Christmas*; *Stone of Destiny*; *Great Witness*; and *Road to Armageddon*. TCT stations also air a number of trans-denominational/faith programs such as *Isaiah 58* and *On Wings of Eagles* (with Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein) and *Zola Levitt Presents* (with Dr. Zola Levitt). If afforded multi-cast must carry access, TCT is ready to implement two to three additional program streams in order to satisfy viewer requests for full time children's, youth and Hispanic language programming in its viewing areas.

Finally, **Total Living Network (TLN)** is a **Chicago-based** organization with a **San Francisco** affiliate, **KTLN**. TLN's main objective is to produce and distribute original programming for the TLN schedule and the broader family-friendly broadcast marketplace. The unique programming TLN provides includes *Aspiring Women*, a show designed to address the concerns of modern women of all ages and backgrounds; and *Health Town*, an invigorating, healthy lifestyles show for the entire family. TLN also produces *Solid Rock VDO*, an inspirational and entertaining music video show. *All Around Rockford* is a show that highlights ministries in the community. **Mr. Jerry Rose**, President of TLN, hosts *Newsmakers* a public affairs program that addresses difficult issues with supplemental media resources including a panel of journalists who discuss current events. *Newsmakers* was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Information Program-Public Affairs Series. TLN also works with several community-based non-profits, such as Kids Around the World, Pregnancy Care Center, Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary, Rockford Rescue Mission and Motherhouse to provide public service announcements and

broadcast exposure for their causes. TLN has found that their locally tailored programming brings members of the community together. Specifically, TLN focuses its outreach efforts on issues to help viewers cope with addiction, physical/mental abuse, health, grief, homelessness, gangs, divorce and sexual assault. Multicasting would give TLN the opportunity to expand its services and positive programming.

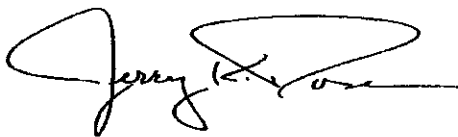
### Conclusion

We would ask that the FCC consider the much debated and carefully structured provision that established the broadcast to cable channel balance, as well as input from various members of Congress expressing support for multicast must-carry (see attached letters of support). It is clear Congress intended that broadcasters be given the opportunity to maintain a proportionate voice on cable systems as these industries and correlating technology evolve and multicast must-carry is consistent with this intent.

RVB is proud of the programming we offer and our true success is measured by the positive impact we have on our local communities and viewing audience. We are excited about the possibilities of a digital television world and will continue to work to better serve our communities with programming chosen and developed for the specific needs of our local viewers. However, the challenges of the digital transition have caused some broadcasters to sell their stations, and others will falter because of financial difficulties associated with the uncertainty of digital must-carry requirements. Multicast must-carry is the single most important issue facing RVB stations as we plan for future broadcast operations in digital television.

On behalf of Religious Voices in Broadcasting, we urge you to vote in the affirmative for multicast must-carry – the viability of our station's futures depends on your decision. We thank you for your time and consideration of our position on this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Jerry K. Rose  
President  
Total Living Network  
Illinois, California and Nevada



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Mike Smith  
President & CEO  
Living Faith Television  
Virginia



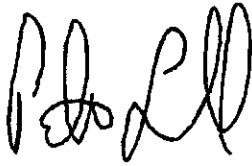
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Marcus Lamb  
President/CEO  
Daystar Television Network



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Garth Coonce  
President  
TCT Ministries, Inc.



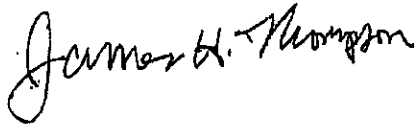
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Pete Sumrall  
President  
LeSEA Broadcasting  
Hawaii, Colorado and Indiana



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Robert D'Andrea  
President  
Christian Television Network  
Florida and Kentucky



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Dr. James Thompson  
President  
WATC & WGGS  
South Carolina and Georgia



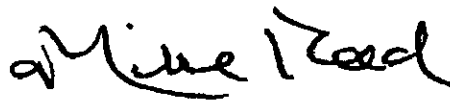
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Belarmino "Blackie" Gonzalez  
President  
Son Broadcasting  
New Mexico



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Ken Mikesell  
President  
Good Life Broadcasting  
WTGL & WLCB, Florida



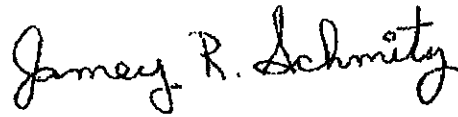
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Mike Reed  
President  
Lamb Broadcasting  
KMCT, Louisiana



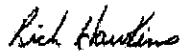
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Grace Rendall  
General Manager  
KSCE, Texas



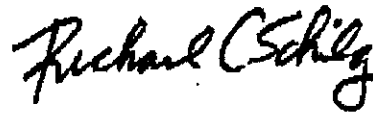
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Jamey Schmitz  
President & CEO  
WLMB, Ohio



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Rich Hawkins  
General Manager  
WLLA, Michigan



---

Richard Schilg  
General Manager  
WSFJ, Ohio



---

Kevin Bowers  
President  
WTLW, Ohio

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



## **Religious Voices in Broadcasting**

Jerry Rose, President, Total Living Network  
KTLN-TV 68 – San Francisco, CA  
KEEN-TV 17 – Las Vegas, NV  
TLN-TV 51 – Rockford, IL

Ken Mikesell, President, Good Life Broadcasting  
WTGL-TV 52 – Cocoa, FL  
WLCB-TV 45 – Leesburg, FL

Jamey Schmitz, President & CEO  
WLMB-TV 40 – Toledo, OH

Dr. James Thompson, President, Dove Broadcasting  
WGGG-TV 16 – Greenville, SC  
WATC-TV 57 – Atlanta, GA

Grace Rendall, General Manager  
KSCE-TV 38 – El Paso, TX

Bob D'Andrea, President, Christian Television Network  
WCLF-TV 22 – Tampa, FL  
WHBR-TV 33 – Pensacola, FL  
WVUP-TV 45 – Tallahassee, FL  
WRXY-TV 49 – Fort Myers, FL  
WFGC-TV 61 – Palm Beach, FL  
WHTN-TV 39 – Nashville, TN  
WVLR-TV 48 – Knoxville, TN  
WGNM-TV 64 – Macon, GA  
WCGT-TV 16 – Columbus, GA  
KFXB-TV 40 – Dubuque, IA

Rich Hawkins, General Manager  
WLLA-TV 64 – Kalamazoo, MI  
WGGN-TV 52 – Sandusky, OH

Kevin Bowers, President  
WTLW-TV 44 – Lima, OH

Mike Reed, President, Lamb Broadcasting  
KMCT-TV 39 – West Monroe, LA

Richard Schilg, General Manager  
WSFJ-TV 51 – Columbus, OH

Garth Coonce, President, TCT Ministries, Inc.

WTCT-TV 27 – Marion, IL

KCGI-CA Channel 45 – Cape Girardeau, MO

WINM-TV 63 – Edgerton, OH

WDYR-TV 33 – Dyersburg, TN

WLXI-TV 61 – Greensboro, NC

WNYB-TV 26 – Orchard Park, NY

WBNF-CA Channel 15 – Buffalo, NY

WAQP-TV 49 – Saginaw, MI

WTLJ-TV 54 – Allendale, MI

WDWO-TV 18 – Detroit, MI

W18BG-TV 18 – Danville, VA

W43CF-TV 43 – Fort Wayne, IN

W54AE-TV 54 – Paducah, KY

W27CN-TV 27 – Lansing, MI

W27CJ-TV 27 – Ann Arbor, MI

W26BX-TV 26 – Kalamazoo, MI

W42CO Channel 42 – Rochester, NY

Mike Smith, President & CEO, Living Faith Television

WLFG-TV 68 – Abingdon, VA

WLFB-TV 40 – Blue Field, WV

WAGV-TV 44 – Wallins Creek, KY

Pete Sumrall, President, LeSEA Broadcasting

WHME-TV 46 - South Bend, IN

KWHB-TV 47 – Tulsa, OK

KWHE-TV 14 – Honolulu, HI

KWHD-TV 53 – Denver, CO

KWHS-TV 6/51 - Colorado Springs, CO

WHNO-TV 20 - New Orleans, LA

WHMB-TV 40 – Indianapolis, IN

Belarmino Gonzalez, President, Son Broadcasting Network

KCHF-TV 11 – Santa Fe, NM

KYNM-TV 30 – Albuquerque, NM

Marcus Lamb, President & CEO, Daystar Television Network

KKAP-TV 36 – Little Rock, AR

KDTP-TV 39 – Phoenix, AZ

KRMT-TV 41 – Denver, CO

KWBN-TV 44 – Honolulu, HI

WPXS-TV 13 – Mount Vernon, IL

WDTI-TV 69 – Indianapolis, IN

WTSF-TV 61 – Ashland, KY

Religious Voices in Broadcasting  
Page 3

WYDN-TV 48 – Worcester, MA  
KOCM-TV 46 – Norman, OK  
KLTJ-TV 22 – Galveston, TX  
KDTN-TV 2 – Denton, TX  
KWDC-TV 56 – Tacoma, WA  
WBUN-TV 24 – Birmingham, AL  
KPCE-TV 29 – Green Valley, AZ  
KACA-TV 61 – Modesto, CA  
KDTS-TV 52 – Stockton, CA  
KRJR-TV 47 – Sacramento, CA  
KDTS-TV 22 – Stockton, CA  
WDDN-TV 23 – Washington, DC  
WSVT-TV 18 – Bradenton, FL  
WDTO-TV 35 – Haines City, FL  
WDMA-TV 32 – Macon, GA  
WDTA-TV 53 – Fayetteville, GA  
W28CD-TV 28 – Gainesville, GA  
KAUI-TV 51 – Wailuku, HI  
WLLB-TV 15 – Portland, OR  
WDMI-TV 62 – Minneapolis, MN  
KCDN-TV 35 – Kansas City, MO  
KDTL-TV 64 – St. Louis, MO  
KUMO-TV 51 – St. Louis, MO  
WJKO-TV 43 – Jackson, MS  
WACN-TV 34 – Apex, NC  
WWIW-TV 66 – Raleigh, NC  
WDMC-TV 25 – Charlotte, NC  
WAEN-TV 64 – Asheville, NC  
KLVD-TV 67 – Las Vegas, NV  
WDTB-TV 39 – Hamburg, NY  
WCDN-TV 53 – Cleveland, OH  
WCLL-TV 19 – Columbus, OH  
KTZT-TV 29 – Tulsa, OK  
WELL-TV 8 – Willow Grove, PA  
WSQY-TV 51 – Spartanburg, SC  
WJRJ-TV 59 – Memphis, TN  
WDTT-TV 24 – Lenoir City, TN  
KQVE-TV 46 – La Vernia, TX  
WRID-TV 48 – Richmond, VA

**CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR  
MULTICAST MUST-CARRY**

- 1. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)**
- 2. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)**
- 3. Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL)**
- 4. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**
- 5. Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)**
- 6. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME)**
- 7. Senator Larry Craig (R-ID)**
- 8. Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)**
- 9. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)**
- 10. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)**
- 11. Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-21<sup>st</sup> FL)**
- 12. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-25<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 13. Congressman Clay Shaw (R-22<sup>nd</sup> FL)**
- 14. Congressman Mark Foley (R-16<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 15. Congressman Dave Weldon (R-15<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 16. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-20<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 17. Congresswoman Katherine Harris (R-13<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 18. Congressman Robert Wexler (D-19<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 19. Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-23<sup>rd</sup> FL)**
- 20. Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-17<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 21. Congressman John Mica (R-7<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 22. Congresswoman Corrine Brown (D-3<sup>rd</sup> FL)**

- 23. **Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18<sup>th</sup> FL)**
- 24. **Congressman Henry Bonilla (R-23<sup>rd</sup> TX)**
- 25. **Congressman J. Gresham Barrett (R-3<sup>rd</sup> SC)**
- 26. **Congressman Tom Osborne (R-3<sup>rd</sup>-NE)**
- 27. **Congressman Joe Wilson (R-2<sup>nd</sup> SC)**
- 28. **Congressman Mac Collins (Ret. R-GA)**
- 29. **Congressman Paul Gillmor (R-5<sup>th</sup> OH)**

JUN. 13. 2006 9:58AM

SUSAN M. COLLINS

HOUSE

601 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2923  
(202) 224-2928 (FAX)

NO. 659

P. 1

COMMITTEE  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN  
ARMED SERVICES  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON ASING

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

June 12, 2006

Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is my understanding that you will be considering digital multicast must-carry rights for broadcasters in the upcoming weeks. I am writing to communicate my view that broadcasters should receive full cable carriage of their entire 6 MHz of spectrum (which is the current requirement in analog television). I believe that this requirement is necessary to ensure the maintenance of the delicate regulatory balance that makes it possible for small and independent broadcasters to be a part of the multi-media landscape of today's television industry.

I am a strong proponent of preserving localism as well as promoting the diversity of television programming. The transition from analog to digital television will bring consumers in Maine and across the nation many new choices for video programming, and will help to ensure a competitive market. For these reasons, preserving the 6 MHz must-carry obligation for broadcasters' digital channels will serve the public's interest in local communities across the nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

J. GRESHAM BARRETT  
THIRD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

HOUSE COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1521 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5301  
FAX: (202) 225-3216

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4003

June 9, 2006

DISTRICT OFFICES

AIKEN:  
233 PENDLETON STREET, NW  
AIKEN, SC 29801  
(803) 649-6671  
FAX: (803) 648-9038

ANDERSON:  
P.O. BOX 4126  
315 SOUTH McDUFFIE STREET  
ANDERSON, SC 29622  
(864) 224-7401  
FAX: (864) 225-7049

GREENWOOD:  
115 ENTERPRISE COURT, SUITE B  
GREENWOOD, SC 29649  
(864) 222-8261  
FAX: (864) 222-1679

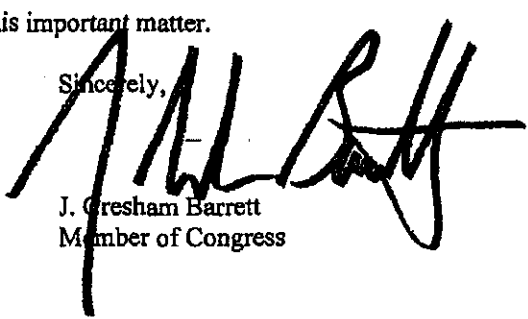
Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street Street, SW, Room 8-C445  
Washington, DC 20554

It is my understanding that you are considering ruling on multicast must-carry rights for broadcasters and that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will be voting on this matter on June 21, 2006. As you know, I have previously expressed my support for broadcasters to receive full cable carriage for their entire 6 MHz of spectrum (which is the current requirement in analog television). Requiring the carriage of broadcasters' 6 MHz of spectrum will maintain the delicate regulatory balance that allows small and independent broadcasters to be part of the multi-media landscape in today's television industry.

I am a strong proponent of preserving localism as well as promoting the diversity of television programming, and I strongly support a must carry rule. A successful transition from analog to digital television will bring consumers new choices for video programming and ensure a competitive market. Carriage of broadcasters' digital channels will serve the public's interest in local communities across the nation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
J. Gresham Barrett  
Member of Congress

LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART  
21ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON RULES  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
CHAIRMAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS

HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND FREEDOM

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
(SENIORITY RETAINED)

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0921  
June 8, 2006

PLEASE REPLY TO:  
WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
☐ 2244 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0821  
(202) 225-4211

☐ DISTRICT OFFICE:  
6526 N.W. 53RD TERRACE  
SUITE 102  
MIAMI, FL 33166  
(305) 470-8556

Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 8-C445  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is my understanding that you are considering ruling on multicast must-carry rights for broadcasters in digital television in the upcoming weeks. As you know, I have previously expressed my support for broadcasters to receive full cable carriage for their entire 6MHz of spectrum (which is the current requirement in analog television). Requiring the carriage of broadcasters' 6 MHz of spectrum will maintain the delicate regulatory balance that makes it possible for small and independent broadcasters to be a part of the multi-media landscape in today's television industry.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cordially,

  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart

LDB:ha



PETE V. DOMENICI  
NEW MEXICO

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5101

COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

April 3, 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
505 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Hoyer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
505 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Stevens and Ranking Member Hoyer:

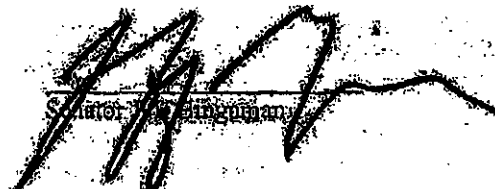
As you consider important telecommunications legislation this session, we would like to encourage the consideration of a multistate statutory provision to help preserve small, independent, religious and culturally focused broadcasters that are serving our local New Mexico communities.

These locally focused broadcasters offer programming that is tailored to New Mexico's unique geographic makeup and diverse population. Multistate must-carry is important because New Mexico relies heavily on the niche programming provided by small, independent, minority and religious broadcasters to reach our local Hispanic and religious communities. Our local broadcasters are committed to offering quality and unique public interest programming that reflects our state's diverse demographics.

In this regard, we would encourage you to consider the inclusion of a provision in any telecommunications legislation that would preserve this essential public interest programming for New Mexico and other communities across the nation. It is our hope that as the country transitions to digital television, there remains a place for small and independent broadcasters in the media landscape. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Pete V. Domenici

  
Senator Daniel Hoyer